

## REMARKS

Claims 3-4, 7-8 and 29-33 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 10-17 and 36 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, 10-17 and 36-37 are still pending. Reexamination and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Huh for his courtesy in granting the undersigned a phone interview on August 4, 2006. During the interview, the differences between the claimed inventions and USP 5,324,255 to Passafaro et al. ("Passafaro") were discussed. The following discussion provides a more detailed explanation of the subject matter that was discussed during the interview.

First, claim 12 has been amended to provide antecedent basis to the "distal head".

Claims 1-3, 10-16, 29-30, 32 and 36-37 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Passafaro. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

First, independent claims 3 and 29 (and their dependent claims) have been canceled without prejudice, thereby rendering moot the rejections of these claims.

### Claims 1-2

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the catheter body has a proximal end that is connected to the distal end of the Y-connector, and that the guidewire port is located at a position between the distal and proximal ends of the catheter body, and closer to the proximal end of the catheter body than to the distal end of the catheter body. See port 66b in FIG. 2 of the present application.

In contrast, there is no guidewire port in Passafaro that is positioned between a Y-connector and the distal end of the catheter body, and which is closer to the proximal end of the catheter body than to the distal end of the catheter body. Thus, claim 1, and claim 2 depending therefrom, are submitted to be allowable over Passafaro.

### Claims 10-13

Independent claim 10 has been amended to recite that a guidewire tube 58 extends through a portion of the main lumen and positioned at about the center of the main lumen, a guidewire 30 is positioned inside the guidewire tube, and the ultrasound transmission member 42 is positioned outside the guidewire tube 58. See FIG. 3A of the present application.

In contrast, Passafaro does not disclose these limitations. FIGS. 4 and 4a of Passafaro show that both the guidewire 86 and the ultrasound transmission member 28 are positioned inside the tube 60. Thus, claim 10, and claims 11-13 depending therefrom, are submitted to be allowable over Passafaro.

#### Claims 14-16

Claim 14 has been amended to recite that the guidewire lumen is a guidewire tube 58. Claim 14 originally recited that the distal head 44 has a bore with a proximal section 62 and a distal section 68 that has an inner diameter that is smaller than the inner diameter of the proximal section of the bore. The claim also recites that the guidewire tube 58 extends into the proximal section 62 of the bore of the distal head and terminates before the distal section 68 of the bore of the distal head 44. See FIG. 3A.

In contrast, Passafaro does not teach or suggest such an arrangement. Assuming that FIGS. 4 and 4a in Passafaro are most relevant with respect to claim 14, the tube 60 would arguably correspond to the claimed guidewire tube. However, this tube 60 does not extend into the bore designated by the numerals 110 and 112 in FIG. 4a. Instead, this tube 60 wraps around the outside of the distal head 104. In addition, referring to FIGS. 4a and 9, Passafaro has no tubes extending into any bores in the distal head. Thus, claim 14, and claims 15-16 depending therefrom, are submitted to be allowable over Passafaro.

#### Claims 36-37

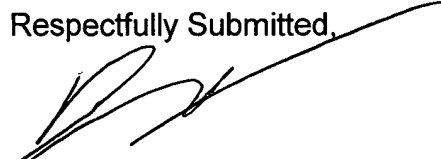
Independent claim 36 has been amended to recite that the proximal-most end of the ultrasound transmission member is attached to the distal bore of a sonic connector 76, and wherein the distal bore terminates distal of the flat proximal face 106 and the threaded portion 96. See FIG. 6.

In contrast, FIG. 6 of Passafaro does not teach or suggest attaching the proximal-most end of the ultrasound transmission member to the distal bore of a sonic connector, with the distal bore terminating distal of a flat proximal face and a threaded portion. FIG. 6 of Passafaro appears to disclose a bore that extends through the entire length of the sonic connector 52, because the ultrasound transmission member 28 is shown as extending through the sonic connector 52 and its threaded stem 46. Thus, Passafaro does not disclose a bore in the sonic connector that terminates at a location that is distal of the proximal face (of 52), and distal of the threaded stem 46. Thus, claim 36, and claim 37 depending therefrom, are submitted to be allowable over Passafaro.

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In light of the above reasons, all pending claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner has any proposed amendments or informalities that need to be resolved.

Respectfully Submitted,



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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Date: August 11, 2006

By:   
Raymond Sun